

Hawaiian Gazette Supplement, Dec. 13, 1876.

Useless Contradictions.

To the Editor of the N. Y. Herald:

It is time that both philosophers and religious teachers should stop this useless war over the two chapters of Genesis, which is spreading doubt and confusion as to the truth of the sacred Scriptures and doing untold harm to many. The use of metaphors and the common sense with which the Lord has endowed us would often save even teachers from gross mistakes and Jewish controversies. Let any intelligent person, free from preconceived opinions and prejudices, read the first eleven chapters of Genesis carefully. I tell, it is among the probabilities, or even possibilities, that he would come to the conclusion that there is contained a literal history of the creation of the material world and the first man and woman upon it, and the literal history of their descendants. Let him bear in mind that the Lord was in each address. His disciples in parables or composed narratives, and that conveyed the most important lessons of spiritual truth, and that many portions of the sacred Scriptures are allegorical, or else they are meaningless and useless. Also let him remember the mythological writings, so common among nations that even the history of Rome, as we trace it back, ends in a myth, or, more strictly speaking, an allegory. Now, if we glance hastily at the first chapter of Genesis, it is so manifest that the narrative is a pure allegory, having no reference to the material creation, but conveying exclusively of the regeneration of man and his spiritual history, that it would seem that no intelligent person should doubt it.

Let us look a moment. Do serpents talk, or have we any reason to suppose that they ever were either a wise or a talkative race? of reptiles, or created for any other ends of instruction than upon their bellies? It is true that they eat dust. A tree of life and a tree of knowledge, of good and evil. Who could possibly imagine that these were literal trees, bearing material fruit, when their very names were the lies? A garden eastward in Eden. What point of the material compass was that? and the serpent—a material serpent of course—therein talking and seducing a woman from obedience to the Divine commands; a woman created out of the rib of a material man. And are we to believe, in the face of all we see around us in both the animal and vegetable kingdom, that one generation comes and another goes, that it was ever intended that man should live forever in the material body, on the material earth, and that the death doomed on his disobedience was what we call natural death, especially when he did not die materially on the day of his partaking the forbidden fruit? Does the Lord promise and not fulfill?

There is a mental earth as well as a material one, and the serpent or the sensual and selfish in man seduces him to-day, as it did the first man on earth, from obedience to the Divine commands. And the seduction that he day then entered thereof thus which surely is a spiritually fulfilled now as then. In the present and just that as a man gives way to a life of selfishness and sensual indulgence, and makes self-gratification the chief object of his life, heavenly life, which consists of loving the Lord and his neighbor, dies within him. The Lord is the tree of life, and the truth, love and charity which ever flow down to man are its leaves and fruit. If a man continues to live according to the precepts of the Divine word he is healed by the leaves of the tree of life when he comes to heart and life to acknowledge in humanity that all goodness and truth are from the Lord, who alone lives, we being but recipients of life. The guide of his own intelligence and the feeling that he is good and wise and does good and recognizes truth, of himself, is the tree of knowledge of good and evil of which man was not to eat. The Lord's word and his Word are always in harmony, and in the very nature of things—both being from the same author—can never conflict. A LAYMAN.—New York Herald.

The British Empire.—England's Duty to India.

On the 1st of January next, Lord Lytton, the present Viceroy of India, will proclaim amid a shower of trophies in the presence of the native chiefs, the assumption of the title of Emperor by the Queen of Great Britain and her dependencies. The cordial and enthusiastic reception of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales last year is a sufficient justification for the selection of the present time as the most opportune for a demonstration of what was virtually conceded, when the East India Company's monopoly was abolished in the year 1858. At home, it has been considered adequate to make the proclamation through the medium of the various newspapers which circulate in every town, village and hamlet in the United Kingdom; but Lord Lytton has deemed it wise to proceed in a different manner with regard to India itself, and to accompany the official announcement with all that state pageantry which has hitherto proved so attractive to the native mind. There is no occasion to take exception to this course of procedure. It does not seem the slightest manifestation of delinquency by the native rulers or the inhabitants when their future Emperor appeared in their midst, or even if there had been an absence of warmth in the reception accorded to him, then it might have been advisable to make the proclamation in the ordinary official way, and trust to the gradual progress of time for the universal adoption of the new title. Lord Lytton, however, acting upon the information supplied by the representatives of England in the towns and cities of our vast Eastern Empire, reasons that a frank and open policy is the best, and most practically proves the most effective in the natural subjugation of the country.

Cocoa Beans Adopting the Ceylon System of Preparing Coffee.

The Ceylon method of preparing Plantation Coffee has recently been attracting attention in other coffee-growing countries. We (says the Ceylon Times) mentioned in a recent issue that one of the Netherlands Trading Company's Coffee Estate managers in Sumatra had been on a visit, and had ordered of Messrs. Walker & Co., Kandy, pulping machinery for the estates near Palmy under his charge. We are now informed that early in this year Messrs. Gordon, Morris & Co. supplied an order for pulping machinery intended for a large grower at St. Jose in Costa Rica, which we hope will be kept going by its enterprising importer, a gentleman who paid Ceylon a visit not very long ago. We have been favored with a photograph of coffee as it grows and bears fruit in Costa Rica, and we profess to feelings of surprise at the wonderful display of fruit on the trees, which apparently grow to much the same height and in much the same manner as the best specimens of native coffee in Ceylon. From the photograph it seems to us that Ceylon trees and palms grow along with the coffee, and that picking, pruning, and handling are performed simultaneously; the leaves and branches on the ground, at any rate, would almost lead one to think so. Picking is being done by most respectable and well-dressed half-castes; the shirt of the man in the photograph is beautifully white, and as little adapted for work as the well-tucked up sleeves of the workmen of the female sex the reverse. St. Jose, we observe on the map, is about 16° N., and situated in a mountainous country some distance from the seaboard.—Brit. Trade Journal.

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